

I am getting more and more prerecorded telemarketing calls and I get telemarketer hang-up calls nearly every day.

It is extremely annoying to have people call me and hang up on me. It's bad enough to wake me up at 8 or 9 in the morning, and the only reason I answer is it could be a family emergency. But it's difficult to maintain my composure when it's a telemarketer who simply doesn't care that my sleep is now ruined for the 'night'. Not everyone keeps 9 - 5 hours, and everyone who knows me knows not to call before noon unless there's a problem.

But many a stranger has done so and with no apology. But worse than that is the hang-up calls. Every hour or two all day long they interrupt what I'm doing and then there's nothing there. By the time a person actually is on the line, I'm so furious they're in for an earful. And they tend to hang up rather than accept my 'do-not-call-me-again-or-else' and it's quite difficult to avoid an 'expletive deleted' scenario.

I used to live across the street from two old women in separate homes at the time this stinking stuff started. One of them was having fits about the hang-up calls, not understanding that there was no one there, she naturally thought someone was harassing her. The other old lady wasn't so much mad as scared that someone was threatening her somehow by the hang-up calls, and was so upset she had her phone number changed, thinking she would avoid whoever was giving her a hard time. It upset all her friends and family because even she couldn't remember her new number after having her old one for 20 years.

Also, there should be no exemptions to the national do-not-call list, even for tax-exempt callers. They're just as annoying and just as pushy. If YOU woke me up at 9 am you'd be just as unwelcome a caller as them.

THE MOST ANNOYING PART: There's no escape from the stinking calls until you actually get a person on the line. And more than once, I have unleashed Hell's fury on someone when it turned out not to be them making the automated calls. And even though they were not a welcome call, they're painted with the same brush once my blood pressure passes the boiling point...